

## ABSTRACT

1 A method includes advertising a policy characterizing communication  
2 properties supported by a node. The policy may be distributed to another node in  
3 response to a request for the policy. Policy expressions in the policy include one  
4 or more assertions that may be grouped and related to each other in a plurality of  
5 ways. A system includes a policy generator for generating at least one policy  
6 characterizing properties of a node. A policy retriever retrieves a policy from  
7 another node and a message generator generates a message to the other node,  
8 wherein the message conforms to the policy from the other node.  
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